Development of Sanctuaries in A.P.

5. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposed to develop some sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh in the Eastern Ghat hills;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposals for developing some sanctuaries;

(c) whether Government are giving any encouragement and financial assistance to State Governments to identify and develop wildlife sanctuaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The power to declare any area as a wildlife sanctuary vests with the State Government. At present there are only three Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Eastern Ghat region of Andhra Pradesh, i.e. Papiknoda, Venkateswara and Lankamalleshwara.

(c) and (d) Wildlife Institute of India after survey of all the biogeographic regions of the country has identified the potential areas representing various biogeographic zones in the country. This report proposes setting up of four more sanctuaries in Eastern Ghat region of Andhra Pradesh, i.e. Velikonda, Donubhavi, Gudem Marripakala and Anantgiri. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to declare areas identified in the report as sanctuaries.

Financial assistance is provided for development of the notified sanctuaries on scientific lines.

Felling of Forest Trees in the Country

6. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated the 4th June, 1992 to the effect that inspite of millions of rupees having been spend on forests every years, the indiscriminate felling of forest trees is going on in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to preserve the forest from complete degradation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have taken a number of steps to preserve and protect the forests from degradation :

(1) The National Forest Policy 1988 lays emphasis on environmental stability & maintenance of ecological balance. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to this principal aim. Besides, there are specific provisions to regulate grazing, control of fire and encroachment.

(2) The Forest Conservation Act 1980 was enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest lands for non forestry purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment in 1988.

(3) The Government of India have been providing Central assistance to State Govt. for conservation of forests under the Scheme "Development of Infrastructure for Protection of Forests against Biotic Interference".

(4) The Government of India have also started financial assistance to State Govts. for protection of forests against fire under the scheme 'Modern Forest Fire Control Methods'.

(5) The Government of India have also issued a circular on 1st June, 1990 to encourage people's active participation in development and protection of degraded forests.

(6) Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Govts. from time to time for

protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as given below :—

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to an area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of felling of green trees in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To set a part 4% of geographiacl area as protected area under Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, and Biosphere reserves.

(7) The Central Government have also been encouraging wood substitution by suitable alternative materials in packing cases, railway sleepers, furniture, furniture, and construction works.

(8) A massive programme of afforestation is being pursued under 20 Point Programme.

Instructions for Restrictions on Industrial and Urban Activities

7. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued any instructions for preventing declaration of industrial and urban activities in the prime areas on the periphery of Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the Government of Haryana for the exemption of Gurgaon from environment restrictions;

(d) if so, what are the details;

(e) what action Government have taken in the matter;

(f) whether Government have issued any specific guidelines to States on environment protection; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) what has been the response of the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (g) A gazette notification proposing to regulate such activities as mining, industrial operations, cutting of trees, grazing of cattle, construction of clusters of dwelling units and electrification etc. in identified areas in the Gurgaon district of Haryana and Alwar district of Rajasthan was issued on 9th January 1992. ,

Comments were solicited and received from Government of Haryana and others. Apprehensions were expressed that development of the area would be adversely affected eading to unemployment and loss of revenue etc. After detaied discussions with the State Government of Haryana and Rajasthan, Industrial Associations, Non-Governmental Organisations and individuals, the notifications was finalised by incorporating modifications and issued on 7th May 1992 for implementations. No additional guidelines have been issued to the two states.

Death of Black Bucks in Delhi Zoo

8. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have ordered a probe into the death of 21 black bucks in Delhi Zoo recently ;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted into the deaths of black bucks ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the probe is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Detailed enquiry has been completed.